Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00910 271319Z

60

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 271252Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8049

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECRET KHARTOUM 0910

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU, PINS

SUBJ: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION

REF: STATE 083787 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ON APRIL 27, I REFERRED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ETHIOPIA AND SAID I KNEW DEPT WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED HIS ASSESSMENT. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD SEEN NO REPORTS IN SEVERAL DAYS BUT BELIEVED ETHIOPIAN EVENTS REFLECTED FACT THAT PEOPLE NOW "SPEAKING OUT" WHEREAS BEFORE THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO. RESULTANT ACTIONS THUS DID NOT REFLECT ANY OVERALL ORGANIZATION, COORDINATED PLAN OR FOREIGN INFLUENCE. MOREOVER, ETHIOPIANS GENERALLY SEEMED RECOGNIZE NEED FOR DONTINUING ROLE ON PART HIM.

2. NIMEIRI NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PEOPLE'S DEMANDS WERE PUTTING ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON IEG. HE HAD ACCORDINGLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH KING FAISAL AND WITH SHAH (KHARTOUM 575) RE POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. HE HAD SUGGESTED SUDAN COULD PROVIDE SOME DURRA TO ASSIST MEETING FOOD SHORTAGES SOME ETHIOPIAN AREAS IF SHAH OR FAISAL ABLE FURNISH NECESSARY FUNDS. SHAH HAD RECENTLY SENT MESSAGE VIA RETURNING SUDANESE MINDEF KHALAFALLA TO EFFECT THAT HE WOULD DO SOMETHING, SINCE HE DID SECRET

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NOT WISH SEE "COMMUNISM" SPREADING IN AFRICA. NIMEIRI INDICATED

ASSISTANCE SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, POSSIBLY INCLUDING USG, WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ETHIOPIANS IN PRESENT SITUATION. I CONFINED MY RESPONSE TO STATING DEPT WAS FOLLOWING ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY.

- 3. NIMEIRI NOTED CONSIDERABLE POPULAR CRITICISM NUMBER ETHIOPIAN LEADERS, INCLUDING PRESENT PRIME MINISTER. HE UNDERSTOOD PROULAR OPINION MIGHT PREFER CURRENT MININT, WHOSE NAMEHE COULD NOT RECALL BUT WHO FORMERLY REPRESENTED ETHIOPIA AT UN, AS PRIME MINISTER BUT EVINCED NO CONCERN AT PROSPECT SUCH CABINET CHANGES.
- 4. COMMENT. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS MAKE CLEAR HIS INFO ON/
 CURRENT ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN OUR
 OWN. WHILE HE NOTED ETHIOPIAN NEED FOR FINANCIAL HELP, HE DID
 NOT PRESS POINT. HE SEEMED RELAXED RE PRIME MINISTER
 ENDALKACHEW'S FUTURE OR IEG CONCESSIONS TO SPECIFIC PROULAR
 DEMANDS, INDICATING BELIEF THAT HIM (WHO HE SAID WOULD REMAIN
 VIGOROUS FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS) WOULD STAY AT SUMMIT AFFAIRS.
 ADDIS 4671 REPORTING LATEST DEVELOPMENTS RECEIVED AFTER
 ABOVE CONVERSATION, DURING WHICH NIMEIRI GAVE NO INDICATION
 AWARENESS SERIOUS TURN EVENTS APPEAR HAVE TAKEN.
 BREWER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ET, SU, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)

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